

Greco Takes Over As ABA President Calls for "Renaissance of Idealism"

Amidst his calls for a "renaissance of idealism" within the legal community, Michael S. Greco assumed the presidency of the American Bar Association in early August at its annual meeting in Chicago.

Greco outlined his goals for his term in an August 8 speech to the ABA House of Delegates. "The law, like the American dream, should make no distinction between rich and poor," he noted. "Unfortunately, neither the American legal system nor our nation has fully kept that promise. Reliable studies have documented that 70-80% of the legal needs of America's poor go unmet year after year." This justice gap, he says, led him to form the ABA Task Force on Access to Civil Justice. One of its goals will be considering a civil Gideon, "a defined right to counsel in certain serious civil cases."

He also continued his "renaissance of idealism" theme by announcing the formation of the ABA Commission on the Renaissance of Idealism in the Legal Profession. "It should be a concern to all of us that fewer lawyers today are becoming visible as public citizens," he said. "We must take steps to nourish the idealism of younger lawyers and veteran lawyers, giving them time and opportunity to engage in meaningful pro bono work and public service."

Greco has retained that idealism throughout his distinguished career. Currently a partner in the Boston office of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP, he brings with him over 32 years of experience as a trial lawyer, mediator, and arbitrator. He has also served as president of the Massachusetts Bar Association, and was



co-founder and co-chair of Bar Leaders for Preservation of Legal Services for the Poor, an organization that helped save LSC from possible elimination in the 1980s.

For a further discussion of Greco's goals as ABA President, see "Uncivil Justice" on page 42 of this edition of *EJM*.

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Wallace Assumes NLADA Presidency

Long-time legal services advocate Jo-Ann Wallace took office as President and CEO of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association on July 1. She replaces Clint Lyons, who will take over as Chairman and CEO of the NLADA Insurance Program. Prior to her appointment, Wallace served as NLADA senior vice president for programs. Her tenure was marked by innovative expansions in several key areas, including the civil and defender divisions, and establishing and strengthening partnerships with other organizations.

"Her passion and commitment are natural extensions of her life's work in the equal justice community," noted NLADA Board of Directors Chair Harrison D. McIver, III. "Ms. Wallace's motivation, exceptional professional experience, integrity, and vision will no doubt solidify

NLADA's charge as the leader in the fight for equal justice."

Wallace has been a leader in that fight for over 25 years, having also served as a children's advocate at Greater Boston Legal Services and as Director of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia.

"I am extraordinarily honored and humbled to be selected to serve in this position," Wallace said. "I am looking forward to building upon the noble history of NLADA by strengthening alliances and forging new partnerships to revitalize the movement for justice in our courtrooms and better life outcomes for millions of people in our communities. Along with new and current partners in Congress, the Legal Services Corporation, the American Bar Association, other bar leaders, the dedi-



cated staff of NLADA and its members, I look forward to advancing the unifying cause of justice for all."

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